



POLICY FOR CHILDREN WITH HEALTH NEEDS WHO CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL

Approved by:	Governing Body	Date: July 2026
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Next review due by:	July 2027
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1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure that:

- Suitable education is arranged for pupils on roll who cannot attend school due to health needs
- Pupils, staff and parents understand what the school is responsible for when this education is being provided by the local authority

2. Scope

- This policy does not cover children who are absent from school for a short period of time. Arrangements are made for them to catch up on return.
- This policy does cover children who are absent due to health reasons for a period of two weeks or longer.

3. Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects the requirements of the [Education Act 1996](#).

4. The responsibilities of the school

4.1 School arrangements

Initially, the school will attempt to make arrangements to deliver suitable education for children with health needs who cannot attend school.

The Assistant Headteacher for Curriculum and Assessment will coordinate the education of pupils who are unable to attend school for medical or health reasons.

Consultation with Parents or carers will happen over the phone in relation to this provision. The school also utilises email and The School Ping App for communications with parents. The initial consultation will establish that the child is well enough to be learning offsite and outline the provisions that will be made.

The class teacher will set work on Seesaw or Tapestry (our home learning platforms) to ensure that provision is made for continuation of learning.

If a pupil does not have access to a digital device one will be loaned from the school.

Re-integration will be carefully considered and a phased return plan will be put in place if this is in the child's best interest. The class teacher, Inclusion Team, parents / carers and the child will all be consulted. This may include creating or updating Health Care plans with Gail Spring (named Medical Lead) or Donna Martin (lead First Aider).

4.2 If the local authority makes arrangements

If the school can't make suitable arrangements, West Sussex County Council will become responsible for arranging suitable education for these children.

In cases where the local authority makes arrangements, the school will:

- Work constructively with the local authority, providers, relevant agencies and parents to ensure the best outcomes for the pupil
- Share information with the local authority and relevant health services as required
- Help make sure that the provision offered to the pupil is as effective as possible and that the child can be reintegrated back into school successfully
- When reintegration is anticipated, work with the local authority to:
 - Plan for consistent provision during and after the period of education outside the school, allowing the pupil to access the same curriculum and materials that they would have used in school as far as possible
 - Enable the pupil to stay in touch with school life (e.g. through newsletters, emails, invitations to school events or internet links to lessons from their school)
 - Create individually tailored reintegration plans for each child returning to school
 - Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made

5. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by Carol Phillips (Governor) and any changes will be approved by the full governing board.

6. Links to other policies

This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Medicines Policy
- Individual Health Care Plans